

1. A knee brace, comprising:

an upper portion adapted to be secured to a person's thigh;

a lower portion adapted to be secured to a person's leg below the knee;

a plurality of straps for securing said upper and lower portions to said

leg;

a hinge connecting said upper and lower portions to permit rotational movement of said portions relative to each other; and

a hinge deflector encasing components on both sides of upper and lower hinge portions, and said deflector having surfaces for deflecting an interfering object.

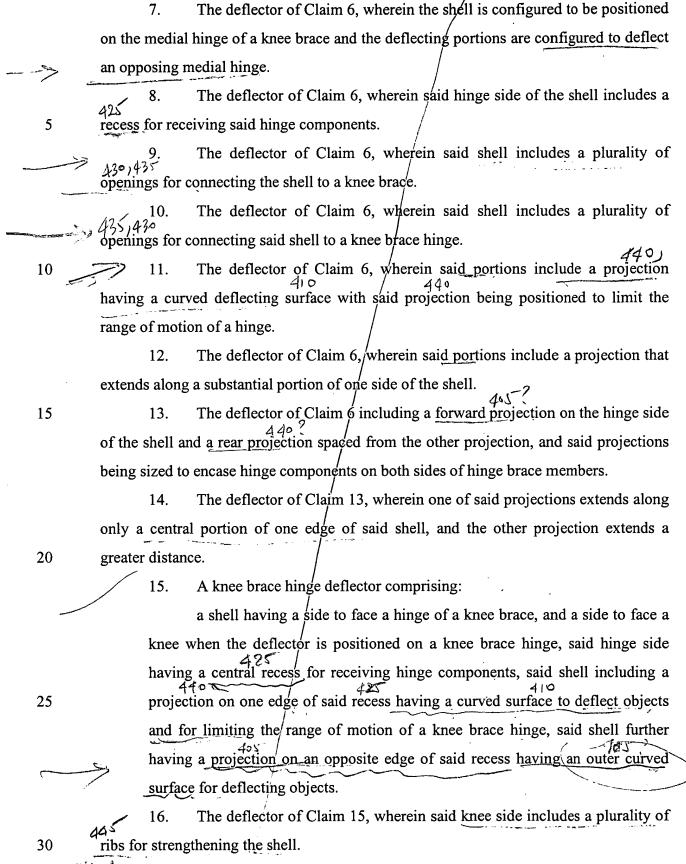
- 2. The brace of Claim 1, wherein said deflector is configured to be positioned on the knee side of the brace, but said deflecting surfaces extend to an outer side of the hinge.
- 3. The brace of Claim 2, wherein said deflector has a hinge side facing the hinge and having a recess for encasing portions of said hinge and having projections which extend to an outer side of said hinge, with said projections having said surfaces for deflecting the interfering object.
- 4. The brace of Claim 2, wherein said deflector is positioned on the medial side of said brace.
- 5. The brace of Claim 1, wherein the deflector is positioned on the medial side of the brace.
- 6. A hinge deflector for preventing locking of opposing medial hinges when a knee brace is used on both of a person's legs, the deflector comprising:

a shell configured to be positioned on a knee side of a knee brace hinge, the shell having a knee side and a hinge side, said hinge side being configured to encase components of the hinge and having portions which extend to an opposite side of the hinge to encase hinge components and in position to deflect an interfering object.

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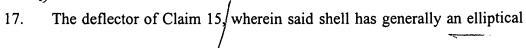
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shape.





18. The deflector of Claim 15, wherein said recess has generally an elliptical shape.